

LISTERIOSIS

Listeriosis is a bacterial disease usually manifested as meningoencephalitis and/or septicemia in newborns and adults and as abortion in pregnant women. Onset of meningoencephalitis may be subacute but is usually sudden and accompanied by fever, intense headache, nausea, and vomiting. The immunocompetent host who acquires infection may exhibit only an acute, mild, febrile illness, sometimes with influenza-like symptoms. Sporadic cases and occasional epidemics result from foodborne transmission, raw or contaminated milk, soft cheeses, vegetables, and ready to eat meats like pâté.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- ?? Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).
- ?? Microscopic examination of CSF or meconium permits presumptive diagnosis.

Case Classification

Confirmed: A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

Epidemiology

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|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Kentucky 2001 | Rate per 100,000 | U.S. Rate (2000) per 100,000 |
| Cases 7 | 0.2 | 0.29 |

There were 4 cases in males and 3 in females from 5 different districts: Purchase, North Central, Big Sandy, Cumberland Valley and Bluegrass.

The ages ranged from 14 days of age to 85 years of age.